



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

June 27, 2014

Kathy Knight
Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
P.O. Box 451153
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Ms. Knight:

I am responding to a recent email you sent to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator McCarthy and others concerning the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP).

EPA is currently conducting an evaluation of the Santa Monica NEP. NEP evaluations are conducted every five years to determine whether adequate progress is being made implementing the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) to merit continued funding under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The evaluations include a site visit, which, for Santa Monica Bay, was conducted on June 10 – 11, 2014. This site visit included program briefings by Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program staff and field visits to some specific sites, including Malibu Lagoon, Ballona Wetlands, a boater program demonstration, kelp forest, and green infrastructure/low impact development projects.

We appreciate your interest and involvement in the Santa Monica NEP and related projects through your participation on the Watershed Advisory Council. Restoration of the Ballona Wetlands is an important component of the Santa Monica Bay NEP's CCMP (also known as the Bay Restoration Plan).

If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact Sam Ziegler, Chief of our Watersheds Section at (415) 972-3399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jane Diamond", is positioned above the printed name.

Jane Diamond
Director
Water Division

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